

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm,
8th March 2017, at St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor Jeff Arnold

Councillor Jenny Arnold

Councillor John Hammon

Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)

Councillor Pam Redford (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Wallace Redford

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Villagers: 2

58. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

59. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

60. Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

61. Village AGM

It was reported that the Village AGM would take place on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at the Village Hall from 7pm.

It was agreed that the Chairman would contact local groups in the village and ask for them to contribute to the agenda and at the meeting. There would be the opportunity for them to talk (5 minutes per group) about their activities and to promote their group.

A leaflet would be created and delivered to every household one week before the meeting.

It was noted that Councillor Jane Knight, WDC would be in attendance.

As in previous years refreshments would be available.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Village AGM would take place on 4th April 2017 starting at 7pm.
- (ii) Councillor Harrington would order the beverages.
- (iii) Councillor Jenny Arnold would be in charge of the nibbles.

62. Weston Litter Pick

Councillor Jeff Arnold raised a concern in relation to the amount of litter throughout the village. It was agreed to carry out a litter pick the weekend prior to the Weston Under Wetherley Open Gardens event which was taking place on Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th June 2017 between 12:30pm and 5:30pm.

Volunteers would be sought to assist with the litter pick.

RESOLVED: That the litter pick take place the weekend, Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th June.

63. Wildflower areas

Councillor Pam Redford reported that Councillors had attended meetings with Warwick District Council for consultation in relation to the three proposed wildflower planting areas received from the Wildlife Conservation Group. This was to create wildflower areas throughout the village.

Also, Councillor Wallace Redford had been in email consultation with WCC and was awaiting a meeting with Tom Mannion from WCC Highways.

Councillor Pam Redford reported that Simon Richardson, Green Space Officer from WDC had attended today's meeting. Various areas had been looked at and WDC's views had been expressed. The PC wanted to support the Wildlife Conservation Group but also the views of villagers who were not in favour. It was hoped that these meetings would help to reach a happy medium.

It was also noted that the Parish Council would look positively upon requests for some wildflower funding. The Wildlife Conservation Group were provided with a Grants and Donations Policy and an application form.

It was noted that the Parish Council would maintain an unbiased position on this matter and had the respect for all views from the village. Any wildflower planting would include the consideration of the safety of pedestrians and road users.

Areas were identified and included, the land opposite Bostock Crescent, (from the hedge to the post, and should curve into the bus shelter not to obscure the view of the bus shelter). The end of the village on the bank to the north of the B4453 and west of the Churchyard wall up to the hedge at the western end of the bank. WDC do have issues with planting on their land and therefore need to know what the type of plants are. Bulbs are not an issue, but wildflowers needed to have a plan, including a Licence to Cultivate and a list of proposed types of plants.

WDC had notified that they did not give permission to the scrub area, situated just beyond the Church to be removed and replaced with wildflower planting. The Group were permitted to tidy up the area as long as this was carried out within the next two weeks, prior to the start of the nesting season.

A detailed plan was discussed which clarified which areas belonged to County and which to District.

The Wildlife Conservation Group were requested to provide a plan and details of the types of wildflowers to the Parish Council in order for this matter to be passed to the County Council to progress.

It was agreed that everyone had a part to play and villagers were encouraged to have a wildlife sanctuary in their back gardens. It was suggested that the Wildlife Conservation Group be encouraged to offer support and advice. They were also planning to run wildlife walks around the village.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Parish Council support the Wildlife Conservation Group cultivating the 3 areas.
 - (ii) That the Parish Council agreed to provide specific funding to support the Wildlife Conservation Group for plants.

64. Internal Auditor

The Parish Council were required to appoint an internal auditor to carry out an audit on the 2016/17 accounts.

The Clerk had liaised with a neighbouring Parish Council who had recommended Louise Best situated in Kenilworth.

RESOLVED: That Louise Best be engaged as internal auditor at an approximate costs of £60.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

65. Public Participation

Council Tax

A question was raised in relation to the increase in the Council Tax.

Councillor Harrington confirmed that there was an increase in WDC council tax. The precept had been raised by around £5 for a Band D property.

It was noted that the Parish Council had lost the concurrent grant and therefore this had impacted on the precept.

66. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

To receive reports from County Councillors, Cllr. Wallace Redford and District Councillors Cllr. Nick Harrington and Cllr. Mrs Pam Redford.

Hunningham Road

Councillor Wallace Redford updated on the request made at a previous meeting in relation to the installation of a road narrowing sign on Hunningham Road. The road had now been inspected, there were existing narrow road signs and there had been no reported accidents. There would therefore be no plans to change the signage and this was deemed adequate.

Safer Routes to School

Councillor Wallace Redford updated the parish council on the Safer Routes to School project. It was agreed that a review would take place at County level. Work would commence after the election.

HS2

It was noted that Phase One of the new High Speed Two Railway (HS2), the part of the route between the West Midlands and London, received Royal Assent on 26th February 2017.

Work carried out in 2017 would be low key and work would start in earnest in 2018. The County Council were drawing up contingency plans in relation to roadways. The designated HGV routes were still awaited from HS2.

Two funds, worth £40 million, were open for bids: the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF). The CEF would help enhance community facilities, improve access to the countryside and conserve the natural environment, while the BLEF would support local economies in areas where businesses may experience disruption from the construction of HS2.

The CEF and BLEF together make up £40 million and would be allocated at a regional level: £15 million for the central area (Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire), £7.5 million for Greater London and £7.5 million for the West Midlands (Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry). The remaining £10 million would fund cross-border or route wide projects.

It was noted that if the Parish Council were to apply for a community benefit only one application every 6 months was permitted. Applications were only permitted from groups/clubs/associations and guidance was available on their website.

A half day seminar was being held in April at Shire Hall for any interested parties on how to complete an application. There were 62 places available.

ACTION: To include as an agenda item at the AGM.

Community Charge

Councillor Pam Redford reported that the Community Charge had been raised.

Travellers

Councillor Pam Redford reported that travellers were still causing issues in the WDC area and the clear up was having a big financial impact.

67. Finance

67.1 to approve payments: -

Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
Jan 17	BACS	St Michael's Church	Room Hire January 2017	£20.00
28.02.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary February 2017	
28.02.17	BACS	HMRC	February Tax Payment for Clerk	£103.80
28.02.16	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses Feb	£10.00
30.03.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary March 2017	
30.03.17	BACS	HMRC	March Tax Payment for Clerk	£103.80
30.03.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses March	£10.00
28.02.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement of USBs	£11.78
08.03.17	BACS	N Harrington	Reimbursement of paper purchase	£7.98*

*purchase of A5 paper for AGM flyer (2 x 200 sheets @£3.99 each) Total £7.98

67.2 Financial Control Document

The draft Financial Control Document was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the draft Financial Control Document be approved.

67.3 Risk Assessment

The draft Risk Assessment was discussed.

RESOLVED: that the draft Risk Assessment be approved.

67.4 Asset Register

The draft Asset Register was discussed. Councillors were asked to review and provide any updates to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Asset Register be updated as required and approved.

68. Planning

The following Planning Application was considered:

Application No: W/16/2135

Description: Proposed creation of a vehicular access from the B4453 into site, and 2 No. tracks within the site laid with brick hardcore

Address: Rugby Road Weston under Wetherley Leamington Spa CV33 9BP

Applicant: Mr Giles A Mitchell

RESOLVED: No comment.

69. Community Forum Grant

The Community Forum Grant Fund was discussed. Applications could be made again from 1st April 2017.

70. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 4th April 2017, Village AGM at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed BY THE CHAIRMAN

20th June 2017